

Africa's Geographic Influences

I. The influence of geography

A. Geographic patterns

1. Vegetation affects where and how people live.
2. Deserts, rainforests, interior plateau, and cataracts discourage travel and trade.
3. Great Rift Valley and Mediterranean and Red seas promote travel and trade.

B. Resources spur trade

1. Salt, gold, iron, and copper encourage trade and bring wealth.
2. Camels can cross vast deserts.

II. People and Ideas Migrate

A. The Sahara dries out

1. Neolithic farmers cultivate the Nile Valley.
2. Farming spreads, climate change occurs.
3. Land becomes parched; desert spreads.
4. Desertification occurs, devouring thousands of acres of farmland and pasture.
5. People are forced to find new areas to live.

B. The Bantu migrations

1. Despite geographic barriers, West African farmers and herders migrate to south and east between 1000 B.C. and A.D. 1000.
2. Their language, based on a root language called Bantu, gives this movement its name.

Africa's Geographic Influences (cont.)

III. Nubia Flourishes Along the Nile

- A.** Rivals Egypt for control of region
- B.** Egyptian control begins in 1500 B.C. and lasts for almost 500 years.
- C.** Nubian capital moves to Meröe
 - 1.** Location, close to waterways, makes it a successful trade center.
 - 2.** Meröe rich in resources, such as iron ore and timber; makes it possible to produce iron tools and weaponry.

IV. Outside Influences Affect North Africa

- A.** African Civilizations have strong ties to regions across the Mediterranean and Red seas.
- B.** Early Carthage, on the Mediterranean coast dominates trade on the Western Mediterranean.
- C.** After Rome defeats Carthage in Third Punic War, uses farmlands to feed armies.